



SPOTTED SEATROUT STATEWIDE AND BASIN TRENDS, ASSESSMENT, AND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Jason Adriance | LWFC Meeting | November 4, 2021

Introduction

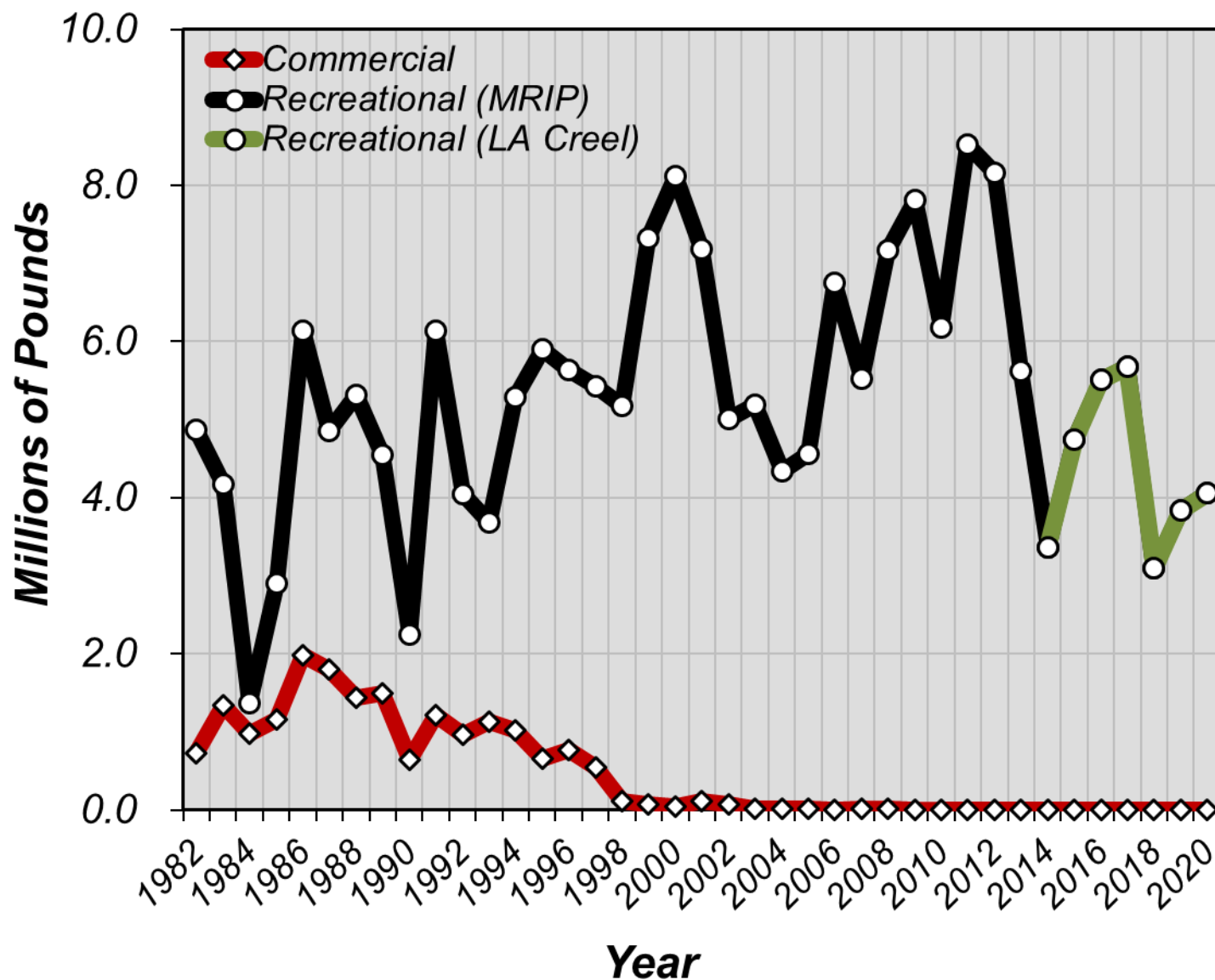
- In 2020 LDWF presented management options to the Commission and then held public meetings
- LDWF presented the results of the public meetings and surveys conducted via email and web
- In October 2020 LDWF brought forward a NOI to adjust recreational size and bag limits (15 fish at 13.5 inches)
- Commission heard from recreational groups and anglers about good catches and directed LDWF to wait one year, re-run the stock assessment, re-survey the public, and present those findings in 2021
- Today LDWF will provide landings and age data, sampling data, results of the 2021 stock assessment (data through 2020), basin specific trends, and new projections of management options



Fishery Landings



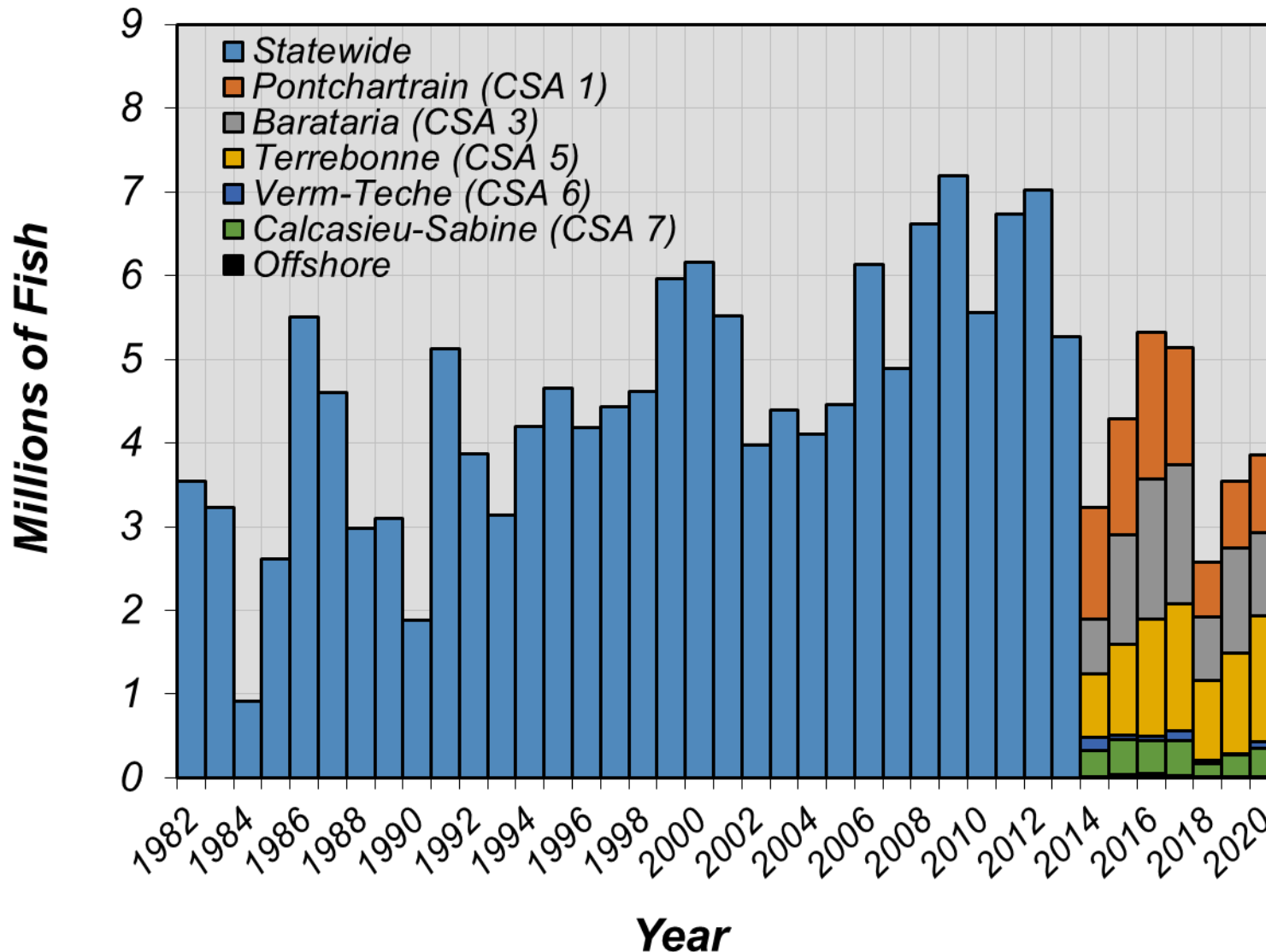
Landings (1982-2020)



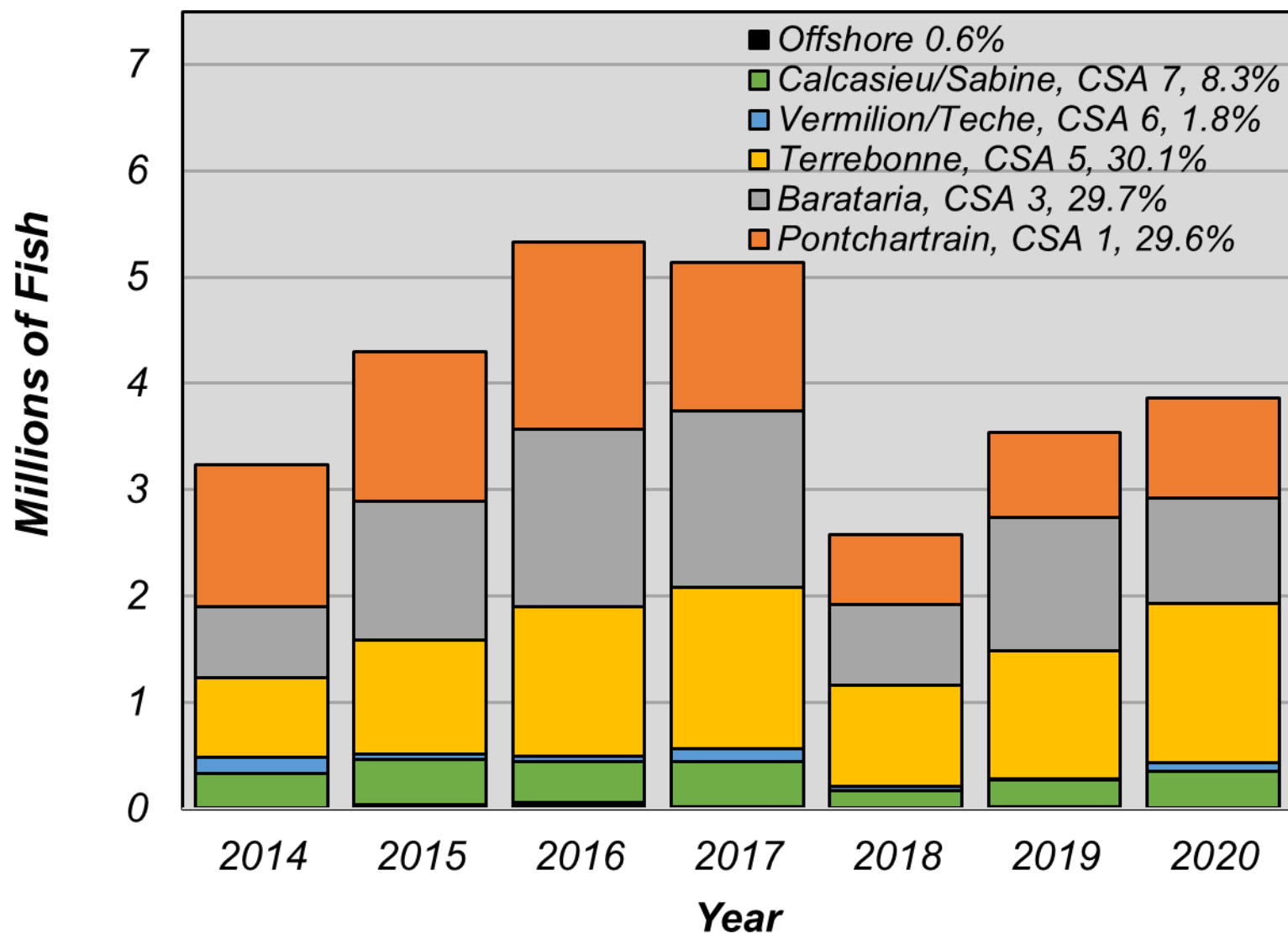
Note: 1982-2013 recreational landings values are MRIP data back-calculated to LA Creel. 2014-2020 landings values are LA Creel values.



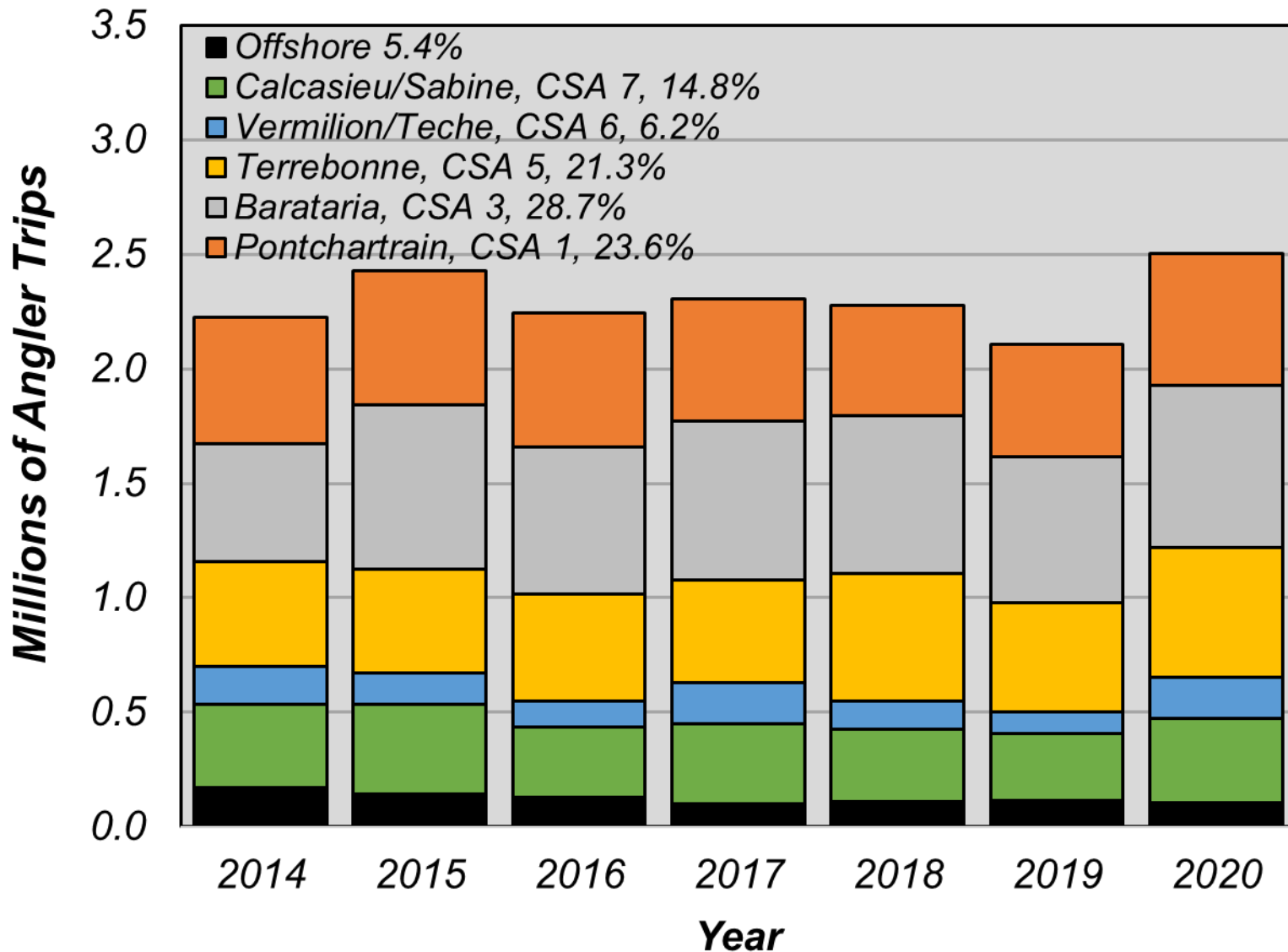
Recreational Landings (1982-2020)



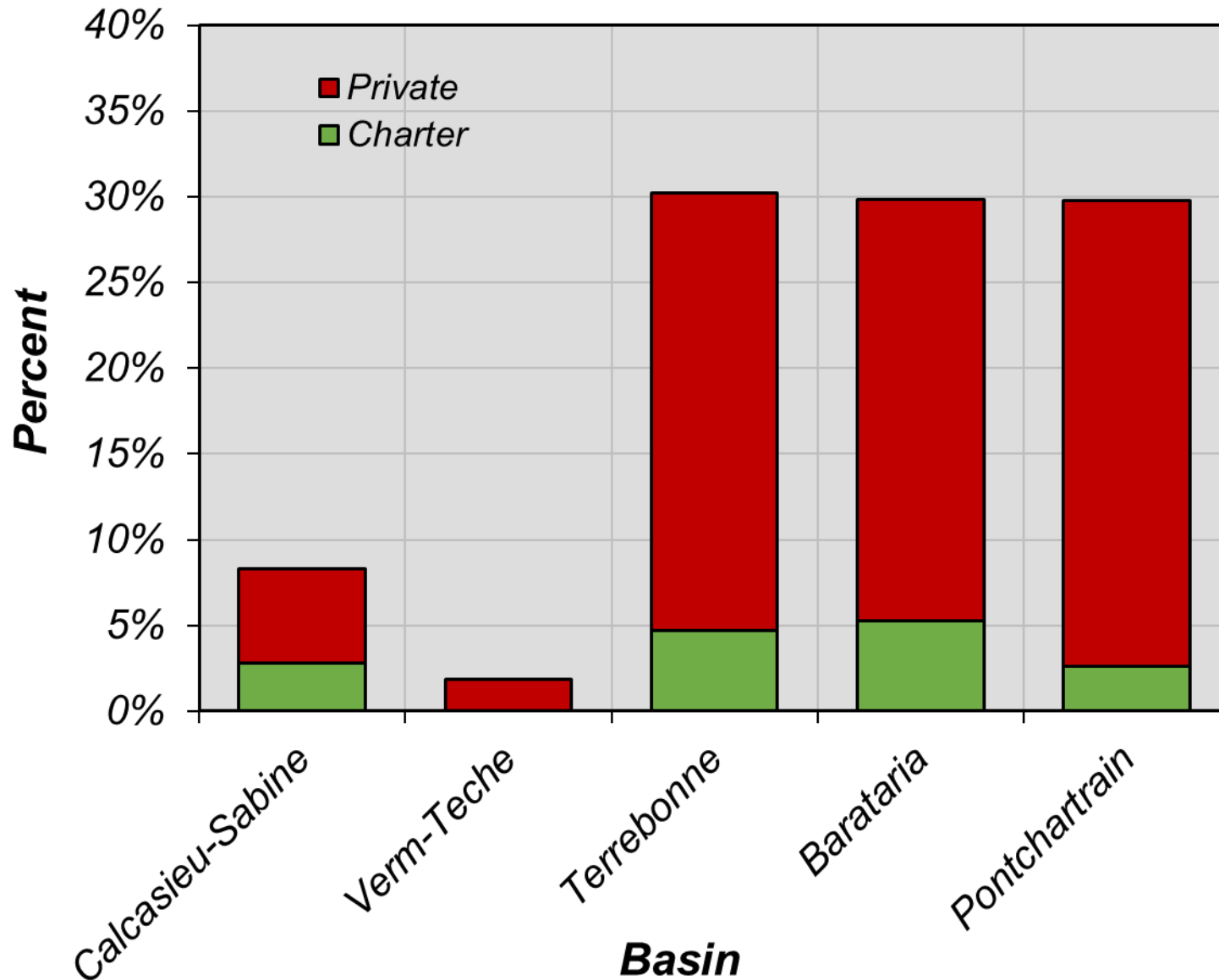
Recreational Landings (2014-2020)



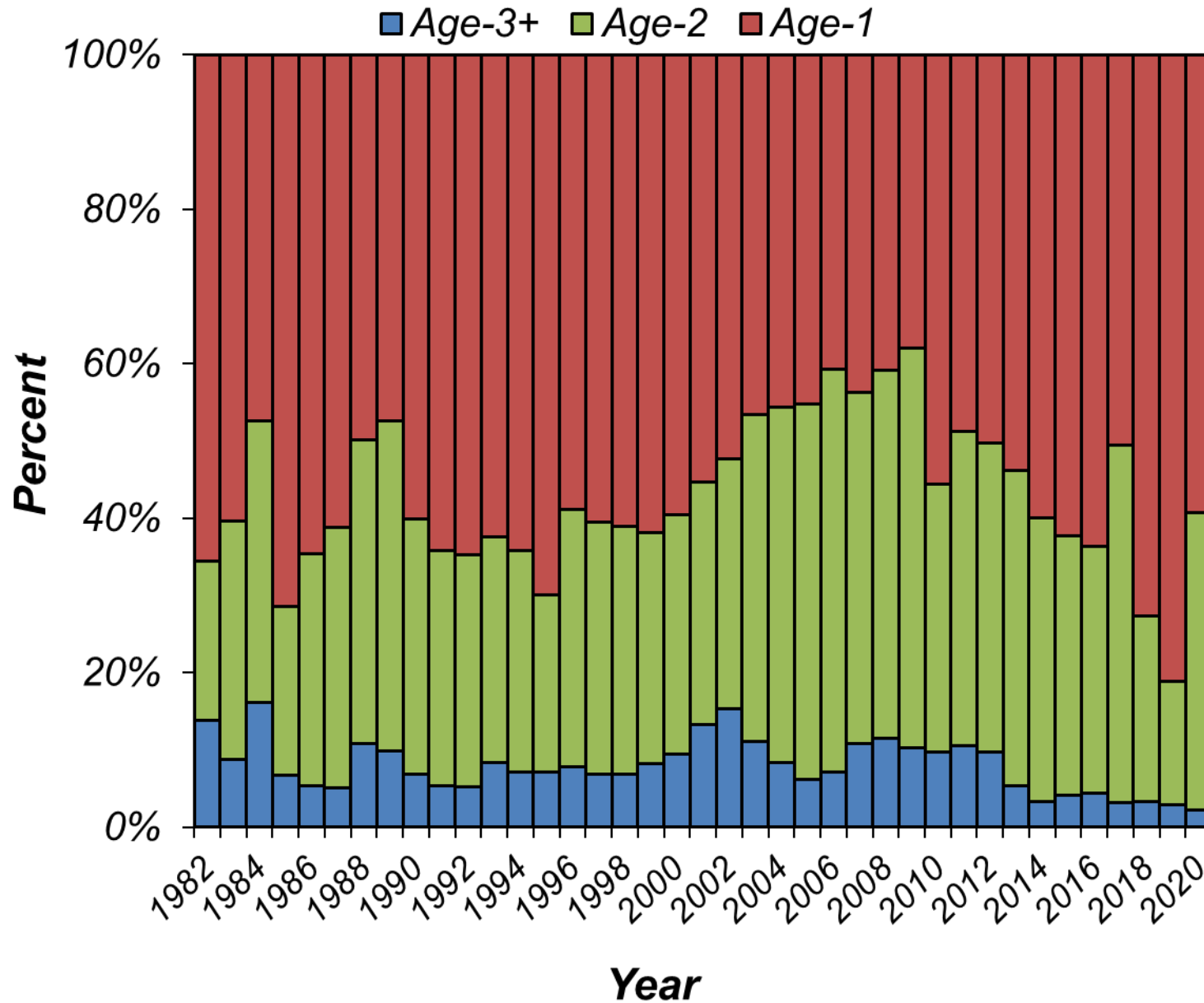
Recreational Effort (2014-2020)



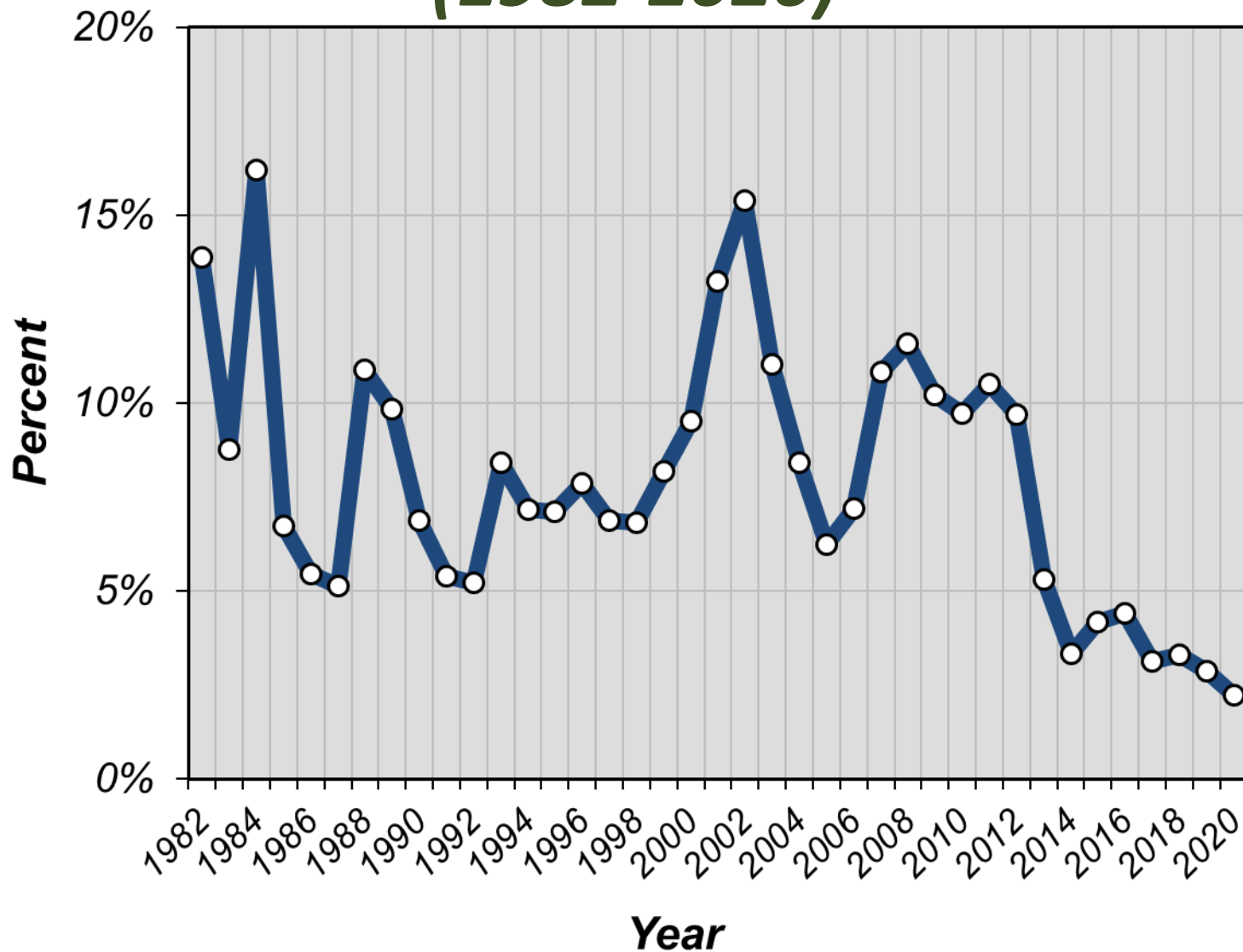
Recreational Landings (2014-2020)



Age Composition Female Landings (1982-2020)

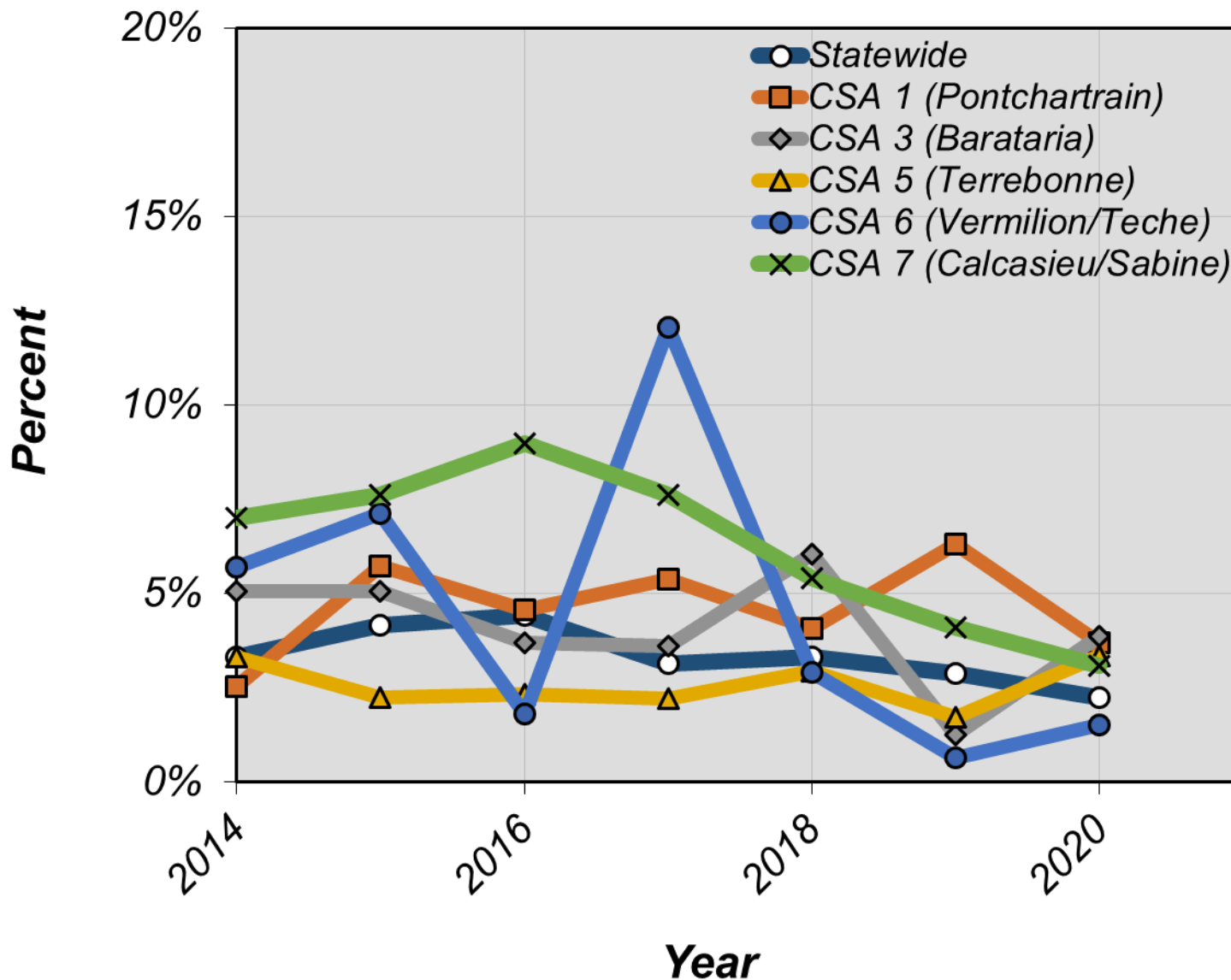


Percent of Female Landings Age-3+ (1982-2020)

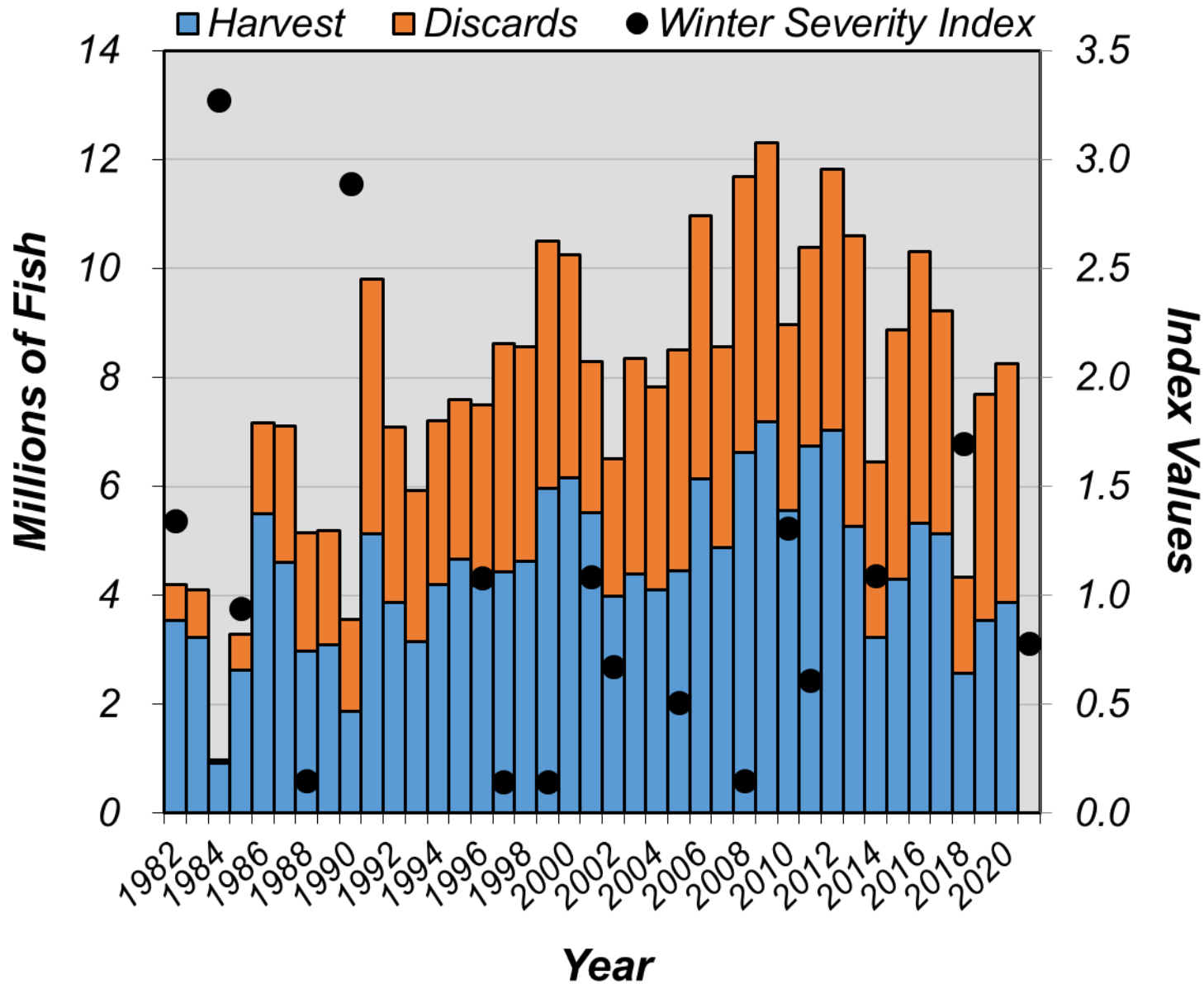


Percent of Female Landings Age-3+ (2010-2020)

**Recreational Only*



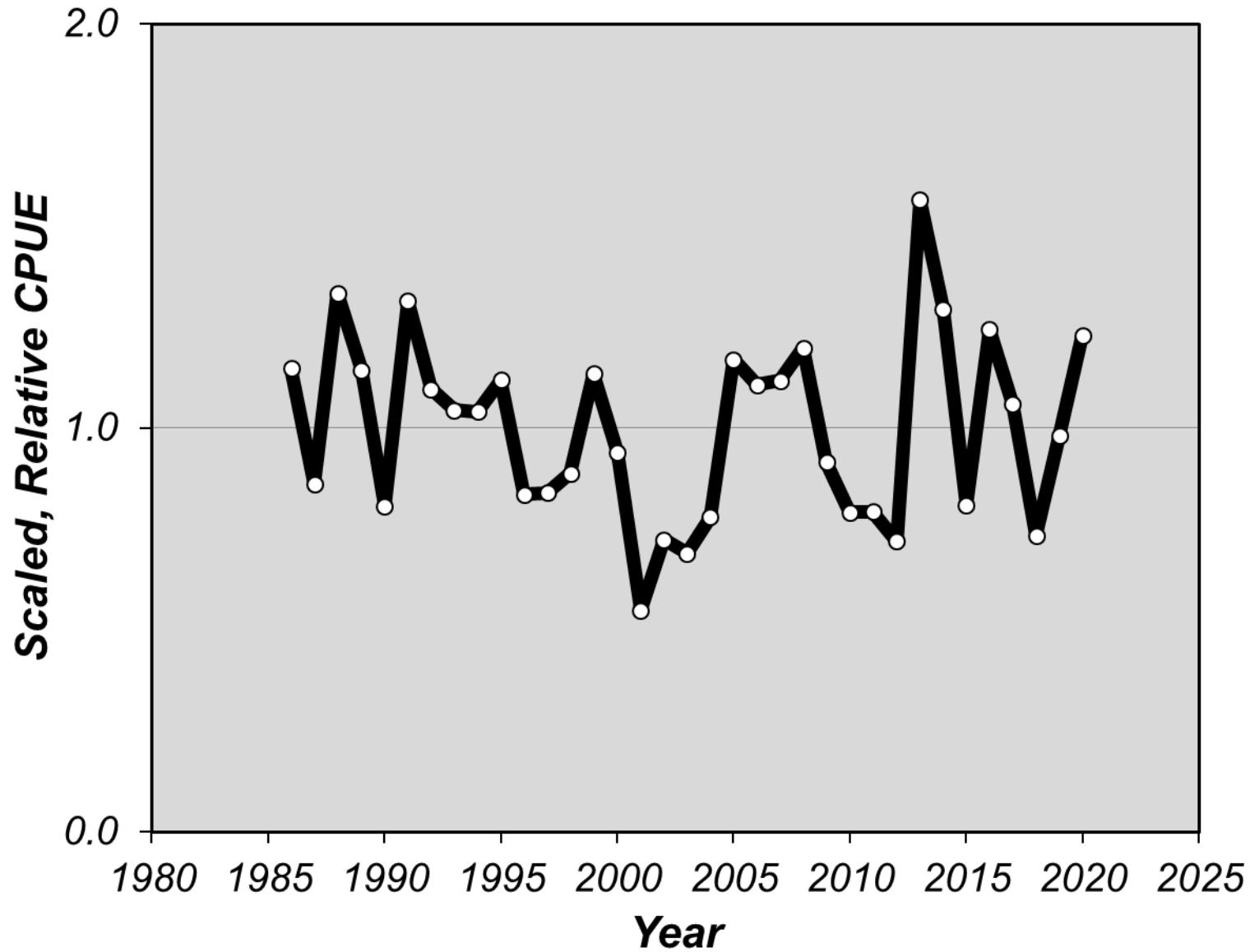
Winter Severity Index



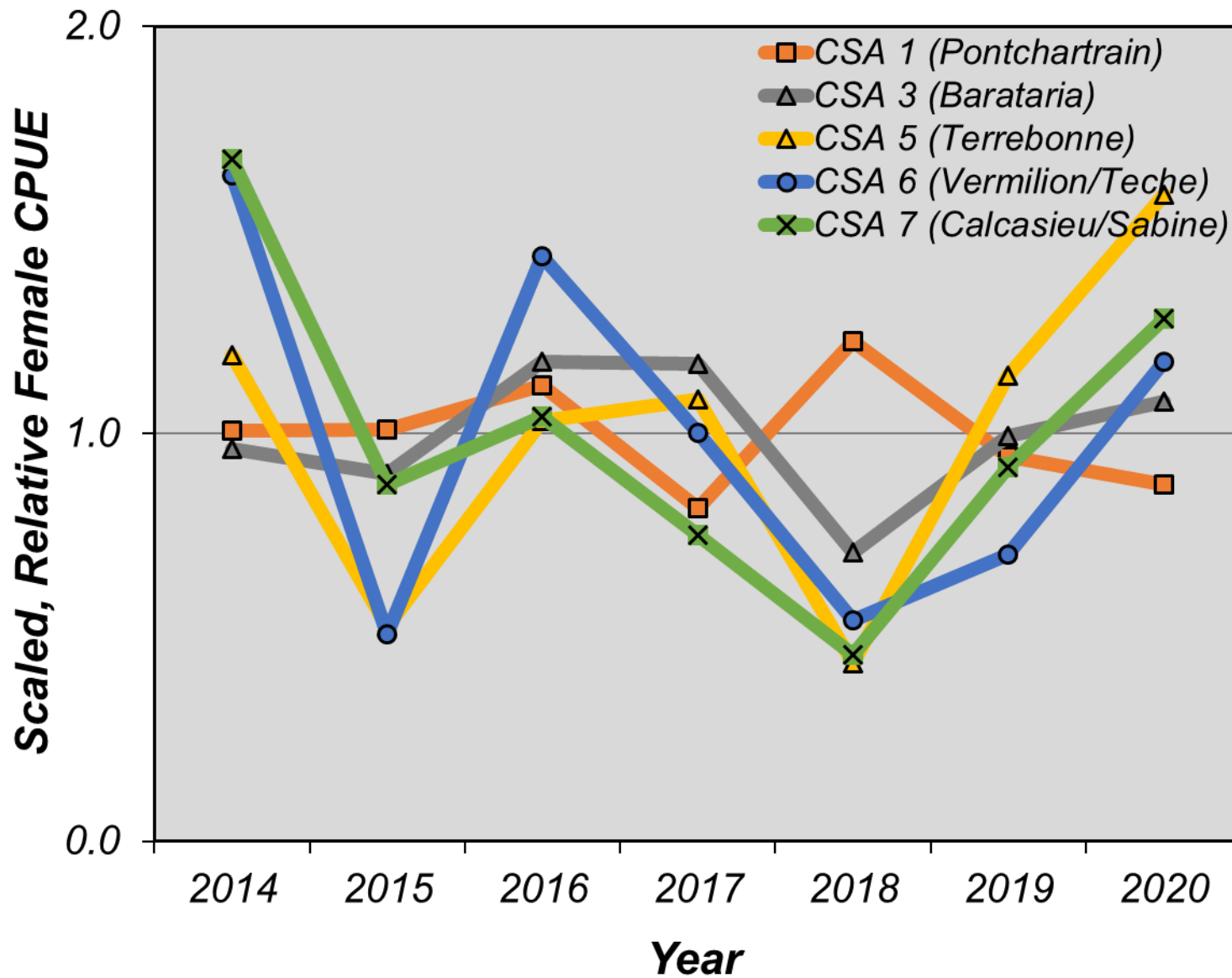
Gillnet Survey



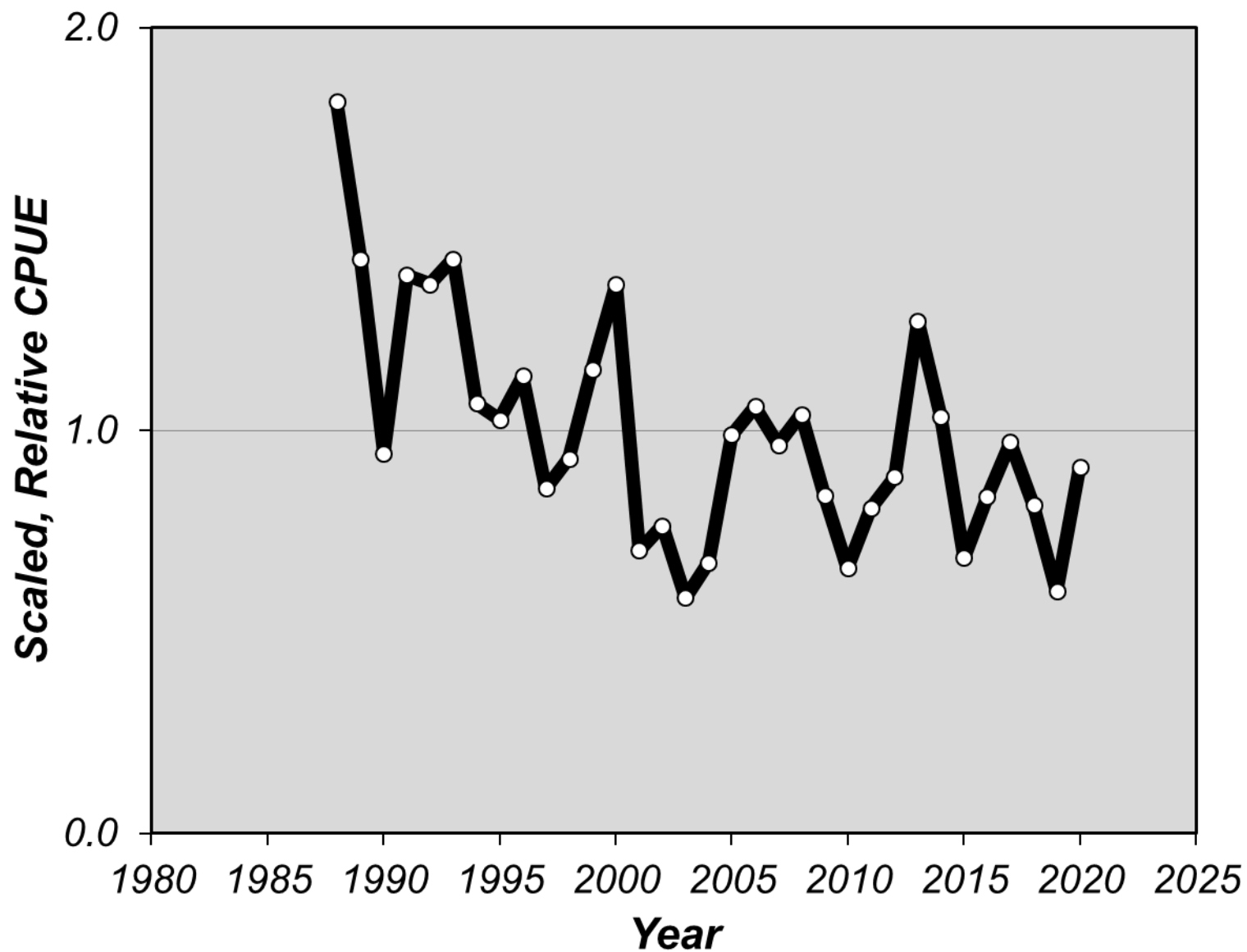
1.0-inch Mesh Panel



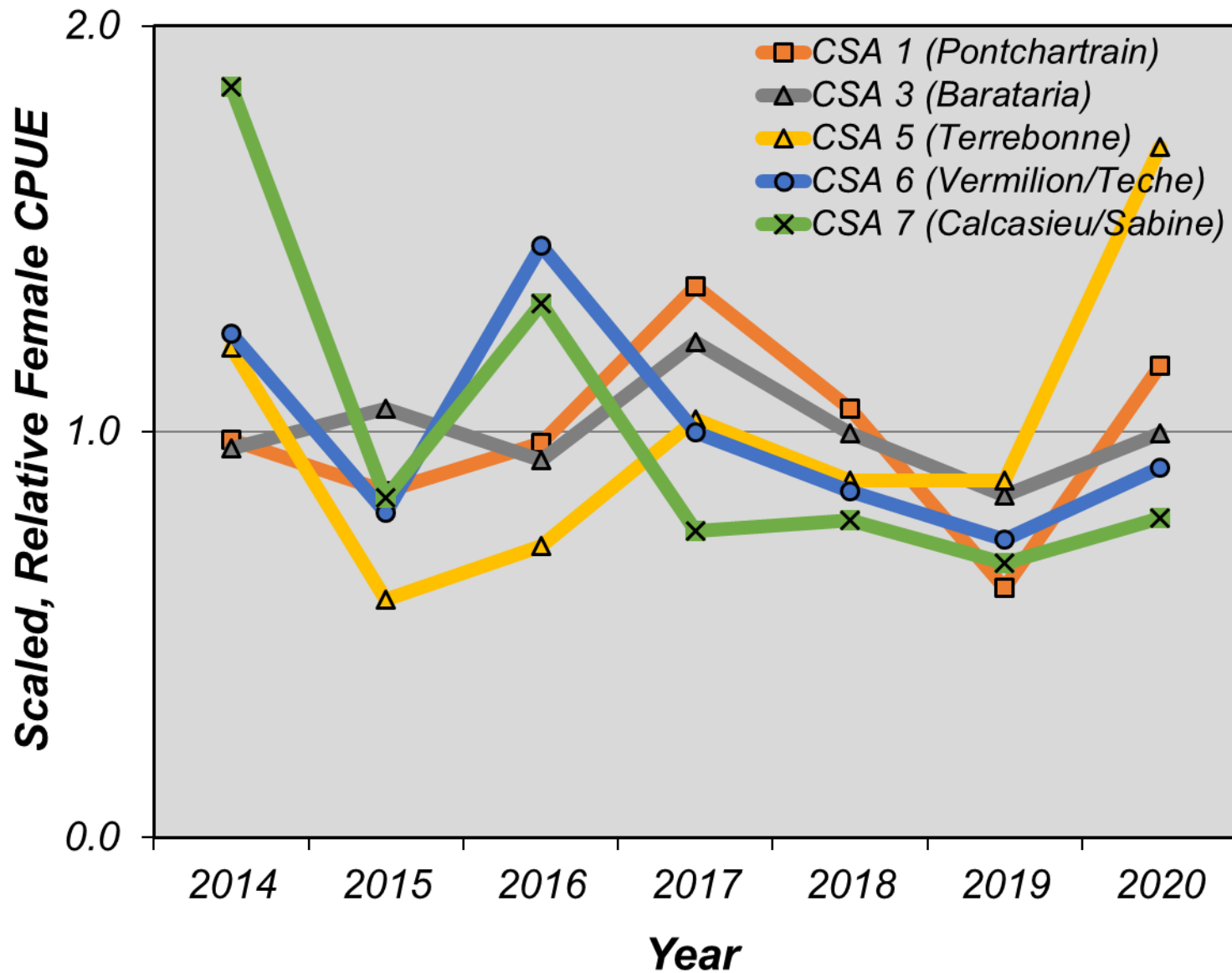
1.0-inch Mesh Panel



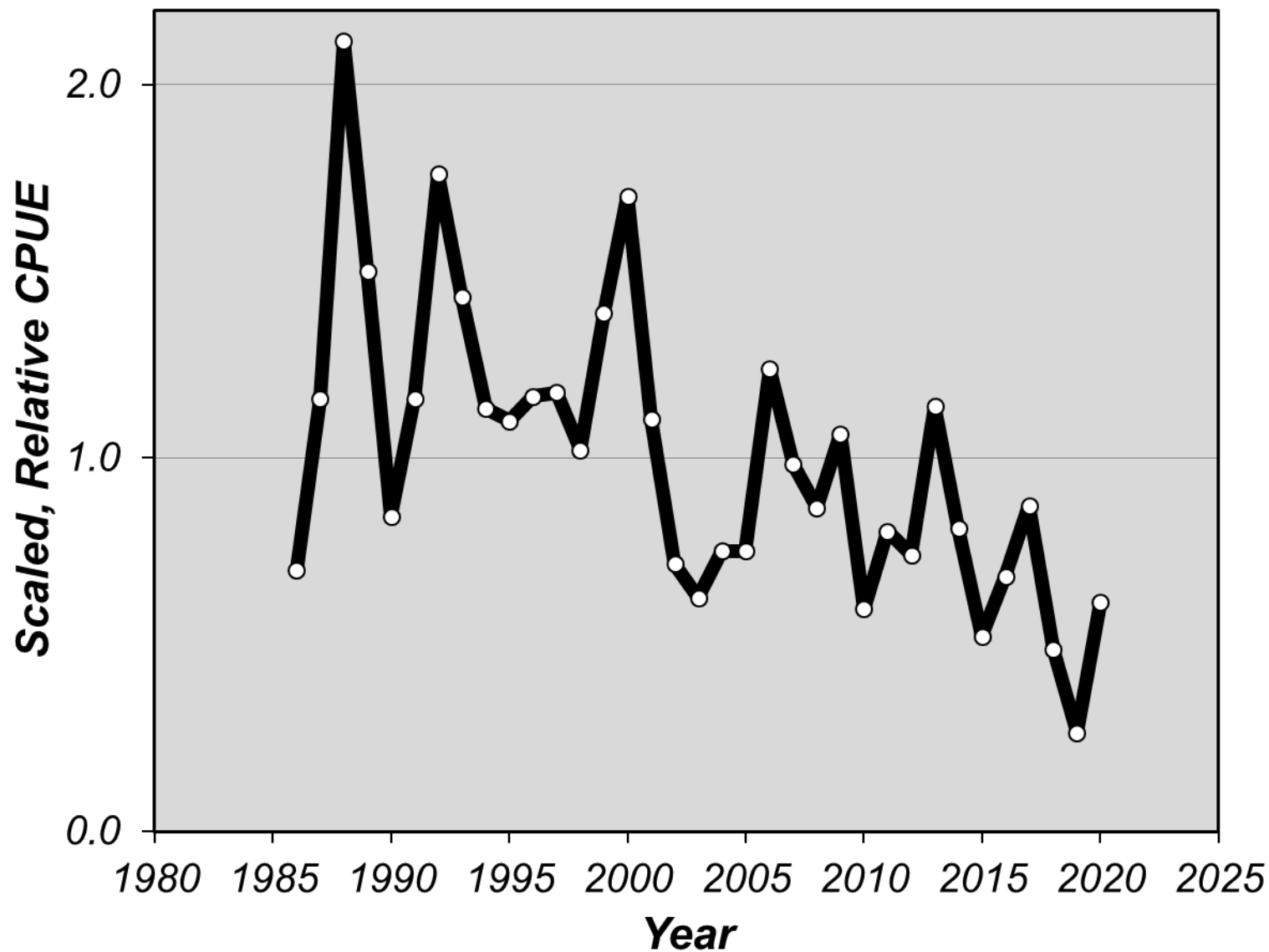
1.25-inch Mesh Panel



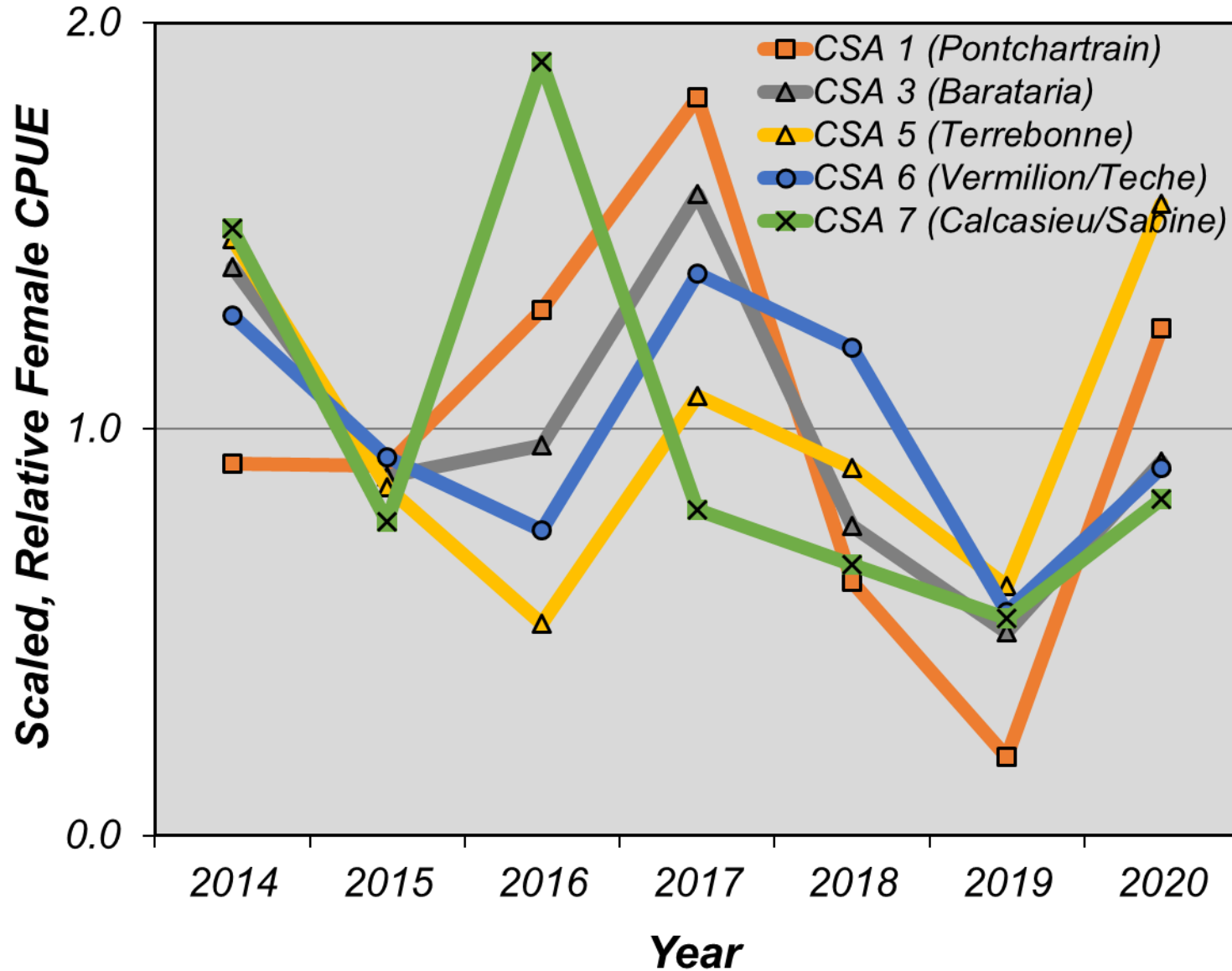
1.25-inch Mesh Panel



1.5-inch Mesh Panel



1.5-inch Mesh Panel

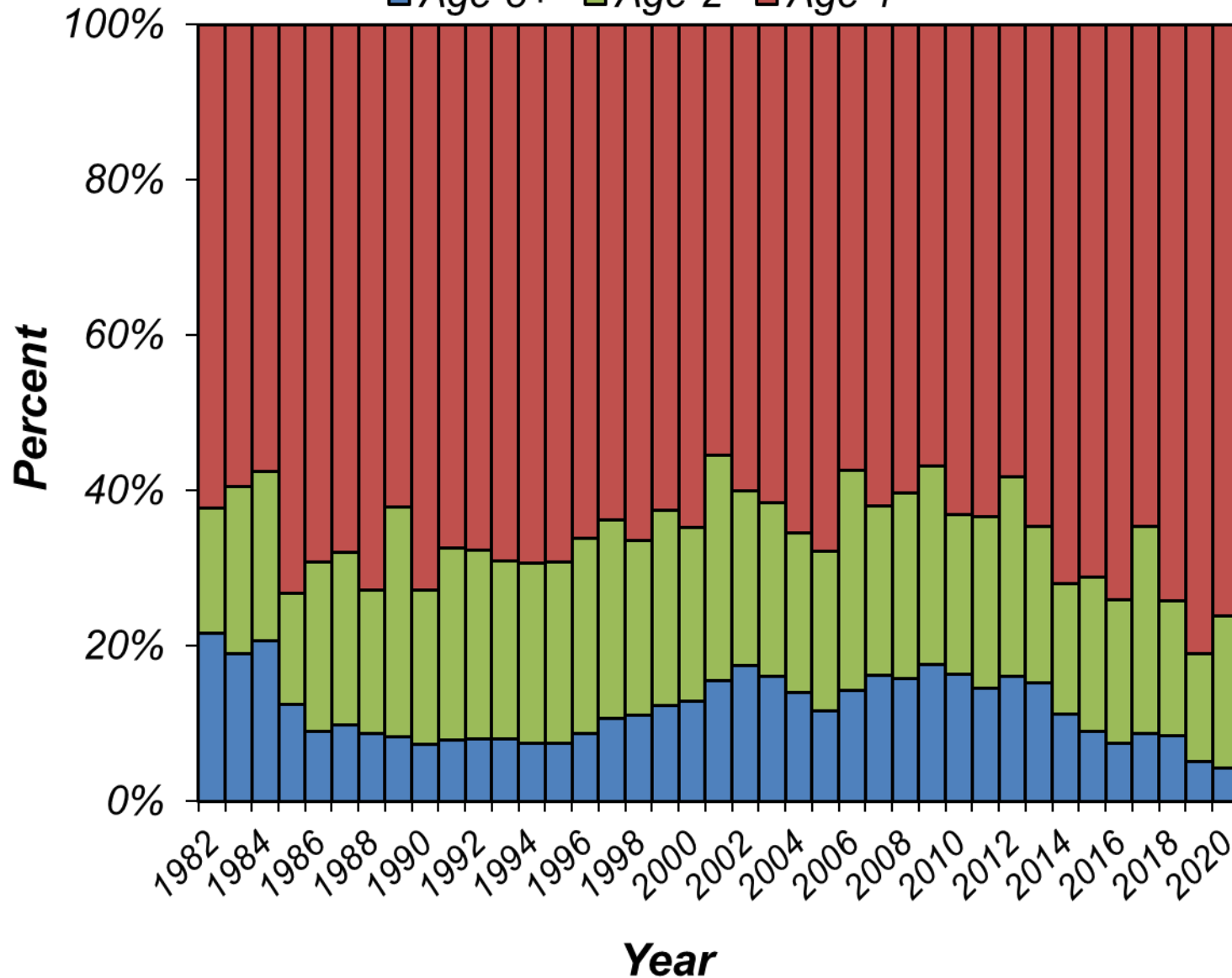


Stock Assessment Results

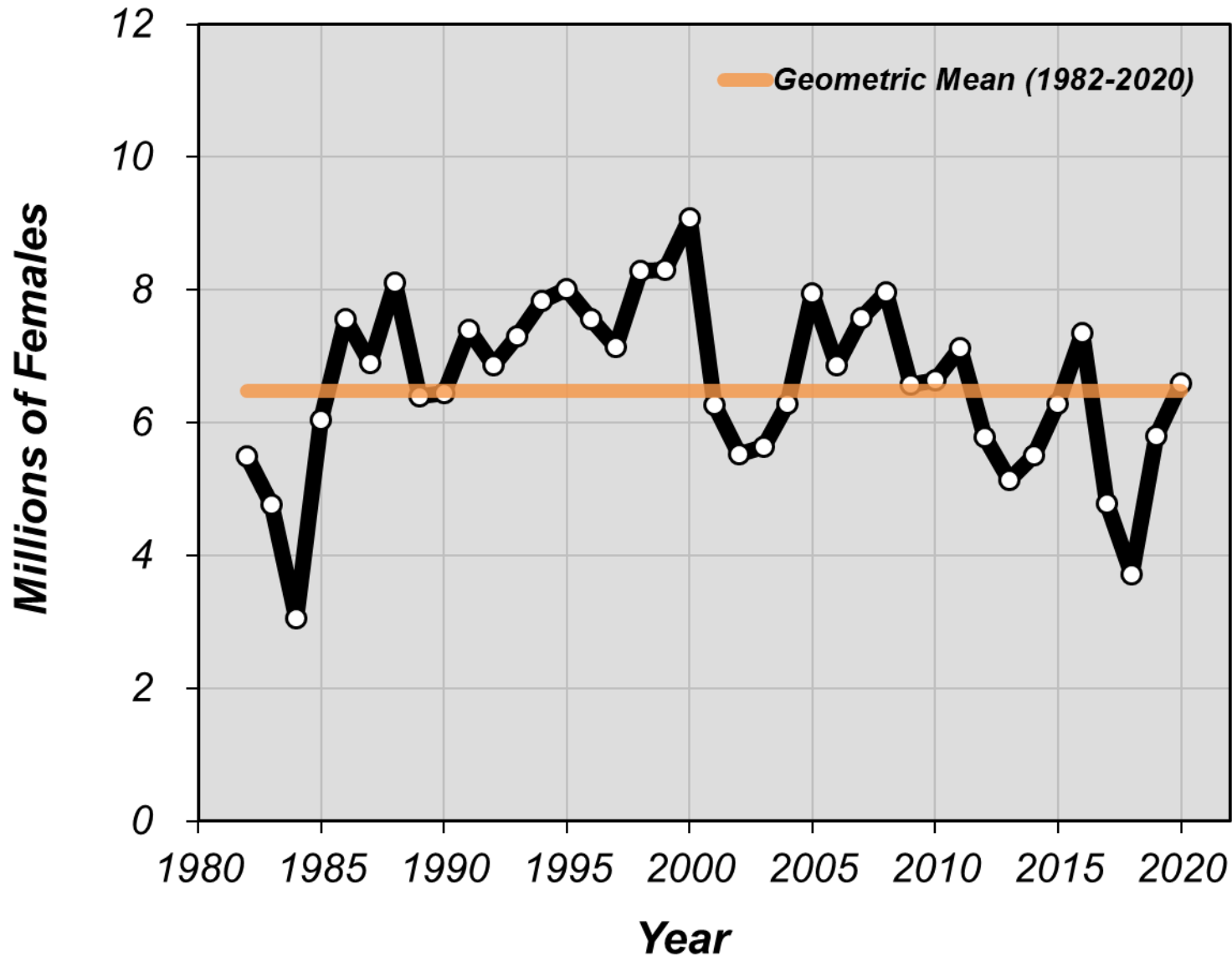


Age Composition Female Stock

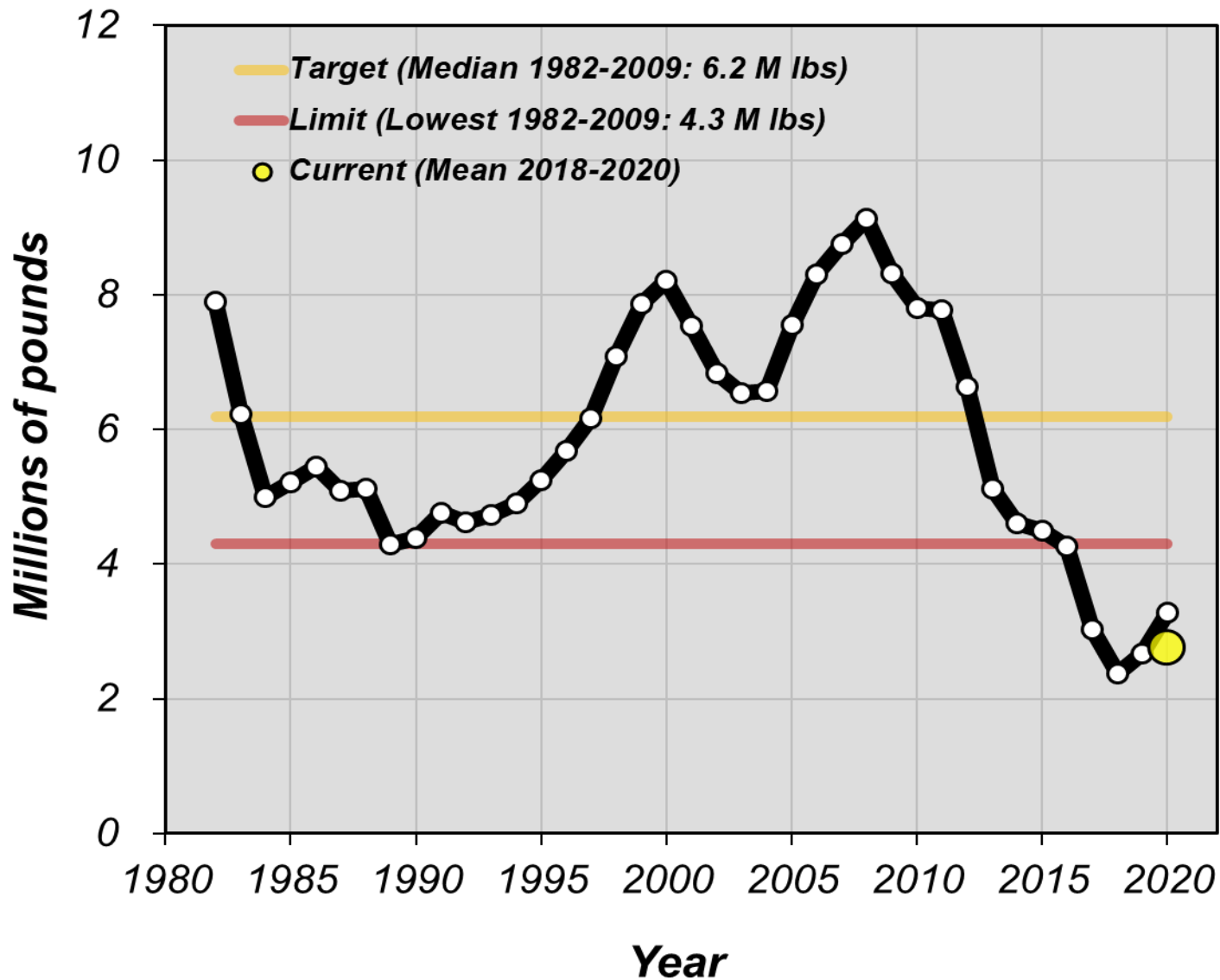
■ Age-3+ ■ Age-2 ■ Age-1



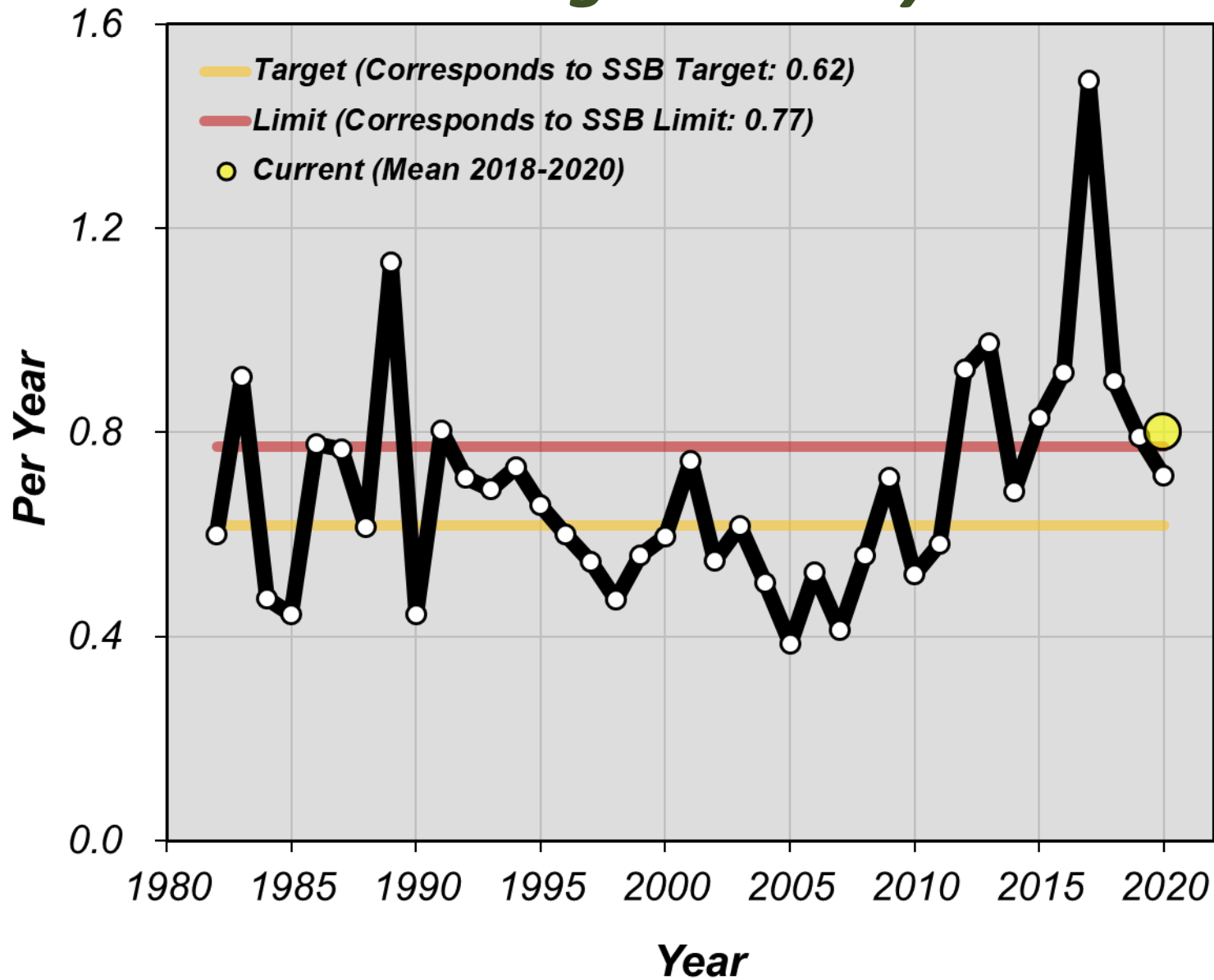
Age-1 Female Recruits



Female Spawning Stock Biomass



Fishing Mortality



Assessment Summary

- **Spotted seatrout stock is overfished with overfishing currently occurring**
- **Overfishing has occurred frequently in the most recent decade (70%)**
- **Spawning stock biomass and SPR are at the lowest levels seen in the history of the assessment**
- **Proportion of older fish (age-3+) in the stock at lowest levels seen**
- **Recent landings at lowest level observed since the early 1990's**
- **An experimental winter severity index has been reviewed that helps explain the low landings observed following severe winters**



Stock Projections

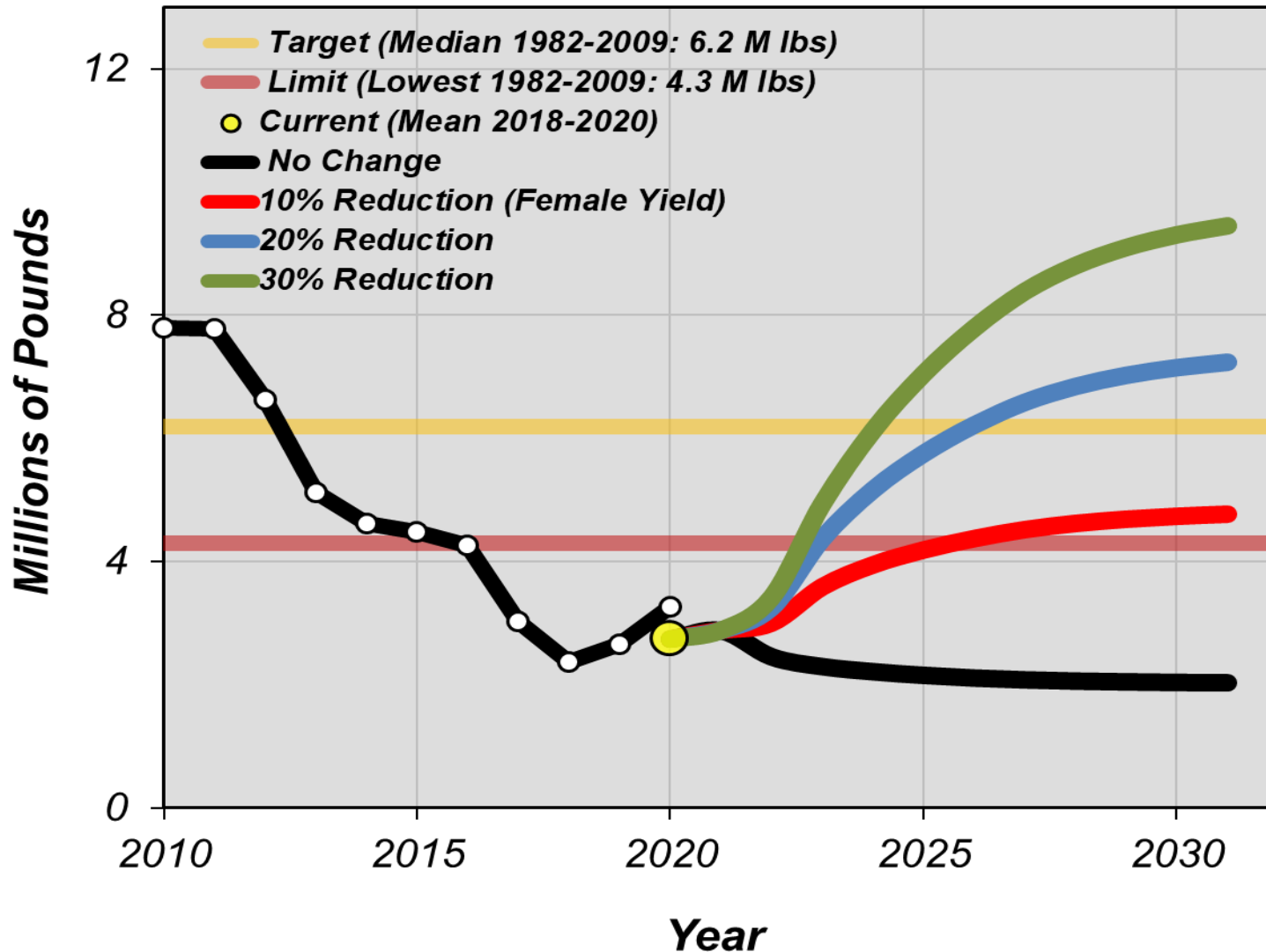


Projection Summary

- **Ten-year stock projection (2022-2031) of base model**
- **Projected population metrics are stock status indicators only (SSB, SPR, and average F)**
- **Future recruitment levels assumed equivalent to the most recent decade (mean 2011-2020)**
- **Future winter severity impacts also assumed equal to most recent decade (mean 2011-2020)**
- **Each management scenario represents a specific percent savings of female landings in terms of weight (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30%)**



Female Spawning Stock Biomass



Fishery Reductions

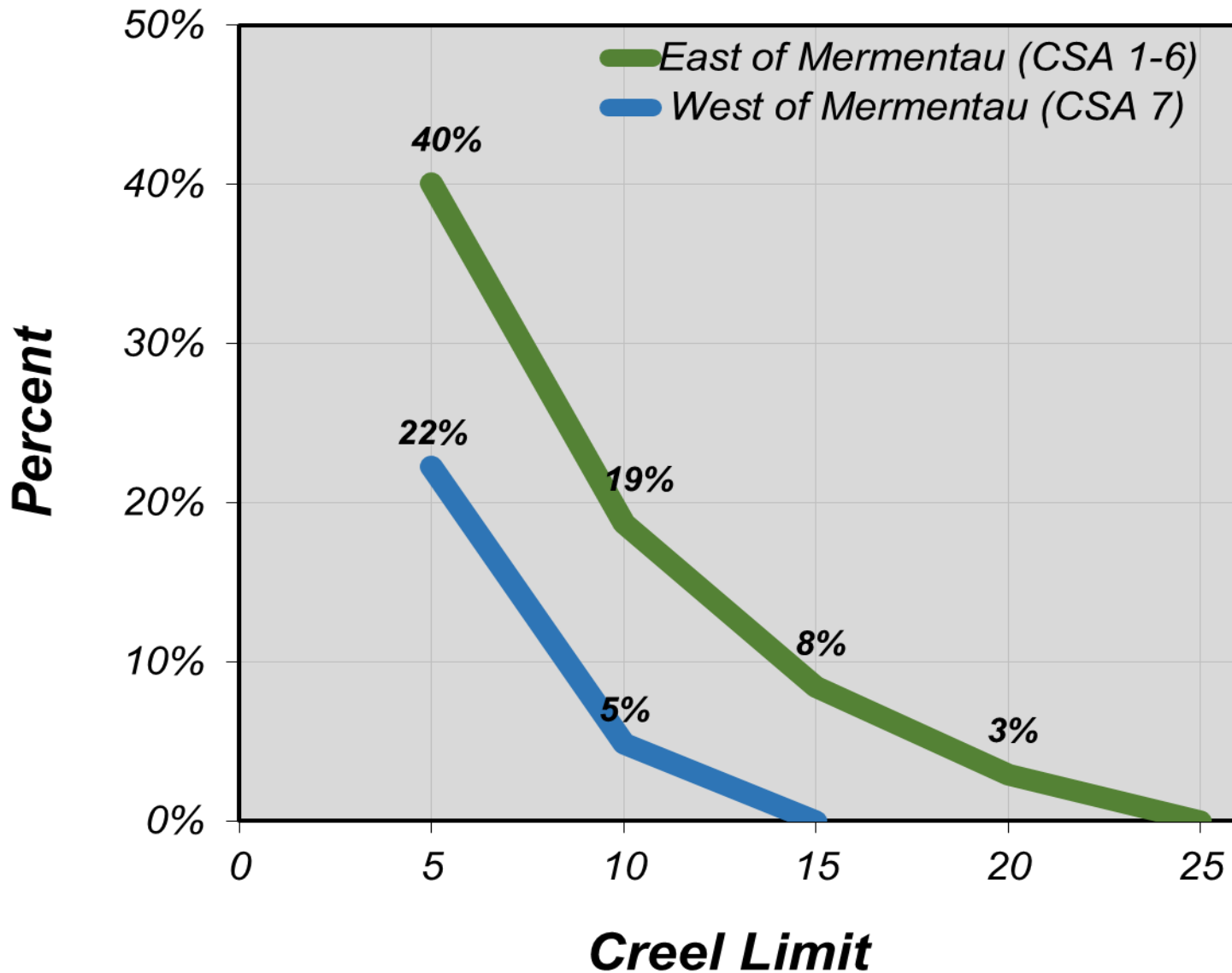


Fishery Reductions Summary

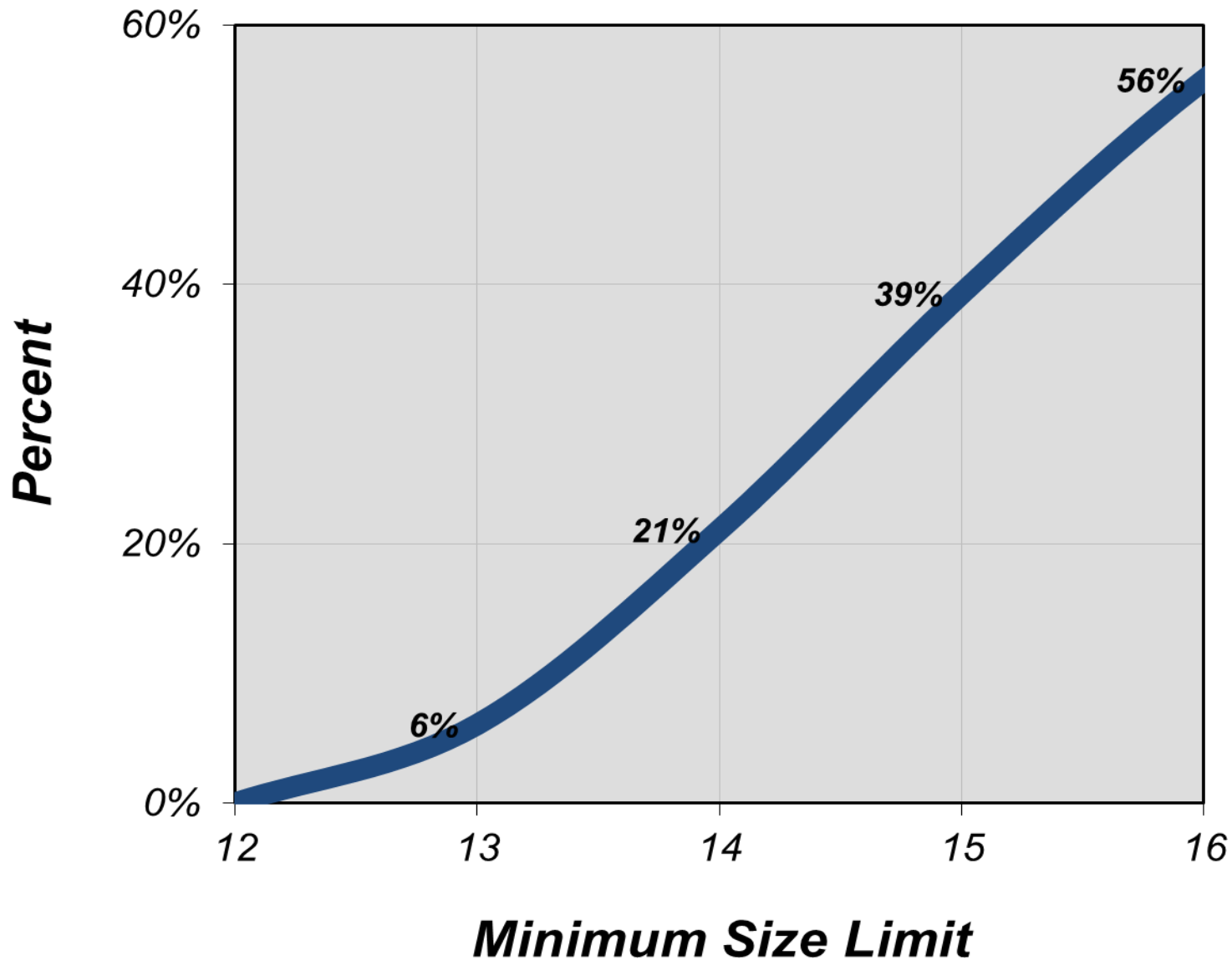
- **Fishery reductions calculated from the LDWF Recreational Creel and Biological Sampling Programs (2018-2020)**
- **Reductions in terms of female yield reductions**
- **Reductions from creel and size limit changes only**
- **Creel limit reductions based on future directed effort remaining comparable to current**
- **Size limit reductions based on a 10% discard mortality assumption**



Creel Limit Reductions



Minimum Size Limit Reductions



Size and Creel Options

Minimum Size	Creel	Reduction
12"	9	21%
12.5"	10	21%
13"	11	21%
13.5"	15	20%
14"	25	21%

Slot Limit	Creel	Reduction
12" - 20"	11	20%
12.5" - 20"	12	20%
13" - 20"	13	21%
13.5" - 20"	21	20%
14" - 20"	25	25%



Next Steps

- **Recover stock (SSB, SPR) to target or above by 2027(5 year recovery timeline)**
- **Recovery options:**
 - **Creel limit changes only**
 - **Size limit changes only (including slot limits)**
 - **Any combination of creel and size limit changes**
 - **Supplemental: Special regulations following significant freeze events (will require further development of options)**
 - **Alternative: Seasonal or areal closures (not recommended)**



Next Steps

- Guidance from the LWFC on Management Options
- Guidance on bringing forward a Notice of Intent at the December or January meeting to begin addressing the problems with the stock



Questions ?

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